studies and preparation of bid documents for the section Cuddalore to Tuticorin (374 km.) has been completed. Cost estimates are not yet firmed up. It is too early to indicate the likely date of completion of project.

Rising Maintenance Costs of national Highways

2308. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to poor workmanship and technology, the maintenance costs of our Highways are exorbitant;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of maintenance funds, the quality of roads of poor quality and is deteriorating day by day; and

(c) if so, how Government plan to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The fund as available is inadequate.

(c) More fund is sought.

Development of Port in Pondicherry

2309. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to improve the Port in the Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the said port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों में कमियों को दूर करना

2310. श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:
श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों में अनेक कमियां हैं और उन्हें दूर करने के लिए लगभग 83000 करोड़ रुपये की आवश्यकता का अनुमान लगाया गया है;

(ख) इन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों में क्या-क्या मुख्य कमियां पायी गई हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन कमियों को दूर करने के लिए कोई परियोजनाएं बनायी है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) जी हां।

(ख) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों से संबंधित मुख्य खामियां इस प्रकार हैं:—

(i) अपर्याप्त क्षमता

(ii) कमजोर पेवमेंट और घटिया सड़क गुणता

(iii) कमजोर और क्षतिग्रस्त पुल

(iv) बिना पुल के रेल फाटक

(v) भीड़-भाड़ वाले शहरी खंड जहां बाईपास आवश्यक है।

(vi) मार्गस्थ सुविधाओं का अभाव

(vii) यातायात के लिए अपर्याप्त सुरक्षा

(ग) और (घ) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का विकास एक सतत् कार्य है और इन खामियों को दूर करने के लिए वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा आबंटित निधियों के अंतर्गत प्रतिवर्ष विस्तृत परियोजनाएं तैयार की जाती हैं।

Annual Estimates on National Highways of Kerala

2311. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted revised estimates

and Annual plan estimates in respect of National Highways passing through the State for its approval sanction of the amount; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Governments' decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) During 1998-99, 27 numbers Revised Estmates were received from the Government of Kerala. Out of these, 20 numbers Revised Estimates amounting to Rs. 30.83 Crore have been sanctioned.

Out of 37 works, included in Annual Plan 1998-99, 34 numbers of estimates totalling to Rs. 25 Crore have been received from the Government of Kerala and 24 numbers of estimates amounting to Rs. 16.5 Crore have been sanctioned.

Transparency in awarding road contracts by NHAI

2312. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item in .the Economic Times dated the 12th February, 1999 captioned "IGM-GAYATRI to four lane Vijayawada-Guntur Road".

(b) whether IGM-GAYATRI is a public limited company;

(c) the details of experience and ownership of these concerns;

(d) whether it is incumbent on all awardees of such contracts to declare their ownership, etc.;

(e) what are the norms of transparency being introduced in all NHAI contracts; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. IGM-Gayatri is a joint venture of IGM Corportation Berhad, Malaysia and M/s. Gayatri Project Ltd, Hyderabad.

(c) M/s. IGM Corporation Berhad is a public limited company engaged in the business of civil enginnering contruction. M/s. Gayatri Projects Ltd., is a private limited company incorporated under the Company's Act 1956 and is engaged in civil engieneering construction.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Wide publicity through National and International dailies/ journals for application for prequalification of contractors, evaluation of the application by a Committee and concurrence therein of lending/funding agencies, opening of financial bids in the presence of bidders, post qualification of bidders before award, evaluation of bids by a Committee and concurrence therein of the lending/funding agencies, etc. are among the important transparency norms being followed by National Highway Authority of India.

World Bank Assistance for construction of National Highways in Assam

2313. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank have given the financial aids to some projects of construction of roads in various parts of the country pariticularly in Assam; and

(b) if so, the names thereof and what amount will be spent thereon and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Constitutionally, Central Government is